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Title: Need to commence train service from Tenkasi to Thiruvananthapuram-Kanyakumari-Tuticorin-Tiruchendur and Tirunelveli in Tamil Nadu.

SHRI P. LINGAM (TENKASI): Tenkasi-Tirunelveli section of Railway line in my constituency has been converted to a broad-gauge line. After the completion of gauge conversion trial run has also been made and certification has been completed.

Already this work got delayed by three years though this is an important rail route both from Tourism point of view and Pilgrim point of view. The famous Tenkasi Kasi Viswanathar Temple and the world-renowned Courtallam Water falls are there. It is also the gateway to the neighbouring State Kerala. Annually, about 25 lakhs of people visit Courtallam Saaral Festival that commences in the month of June every year. Now that the line is ready, train operations must commence now.

While commencing railway operations on this route, suitable action may be taken to link Tenkasi with Thiruvananthapuram – Kanyakumari-Tuticorn-Tiruchedur and Tirunelveli. So proper railway connections may kindly be made. Introduction of new trains may also be considered.

Previously, Tirunelveli Express used to run between Tirunelveli and Chennai via Tenkasi-Rajapalayam and Virudhunagar. This is also a commercially viable route that can enhance the revenues of the Railways.

Hence, I urge upon the Railway Ministry to take steps to run immediately both Passenger and Express trains on this route.